

STATE AND FEDERAL

BENEFITS • INFORMATION

SERVICES • RESOURCES

FOR UTAH VETERANS



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS



550 Foothill Drive
Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113

CONTENTS

Accelerated Credentialing to Employment (ACE) Program	8	License Plates, Disabled	6
America the Beautiful Pass	10	License Plates, Veterans	5
American Legion	15	Memorial Park (and Cemetery)	3
Armed Forces Property Tax Exemption.....	4	Military Order of the Purple Heart	15
Armories, free use of	9	National Guard	9
Bus / TRAX Reduced Fare Cards	8	National Personnel Records Center	16
Cemetery / Memorial Park	3	Outreach Programs	3
Central Utah Veterans Home — Payson	2	Property Tax Abatement, Disabled Veteran....	4
Community Based Outpatient Clinics	14	Property Tax Exemption, Armed Forces	5
DD-214 (Recover)	3, 16	Purple Heart Fee Exemption	5
Department of Workforce Services (DWS).....	7	Purple Heart Tuition Waiver	4
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)	15	Record of Separation, National Guard	9
Disabled License Plates	6	Reemployment Rights.....	10
Disabled Veterans Outreach Program	7	Scott B. Lundell Tuition Waiver	5
Disabled Veteran Property Tax Abatement	4	Southern Utah Veterans Home — Ivins.....	2
Disability Compensation	10	State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (SAA)	3
Discharge Data	3, 9	State Parks Pass	9
Driver License Privileges	6	Support Organizations	18
Driver License, Veteran Status on	6	Tuition Gap Program	5
Educational Benefits.....	11	U.S. Department of Labor	10
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)	15	Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)	15
Employment Representatives	7	Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs (UDVMA)	2-3
Fishing License Privilege	9	VA Medical Center	13
George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home	2	VA Regional (Benefits) Office (VARO)	15
GI Bill.....	11	VA Salt Lake City Health Care System.....	13
Health Care.....	12	Valor House	15
High School Diplomas, Honorary.....	5	Vet Centers	14
Hiring Priority	7	VetNet (Google).....	16
History Projects.....	17	Veterans Information System (VIS)	3
Homeless Veterans Fellowship	9	Veteran Service Organizations (VSO).....	15
Homes, Veterans.....	2	Veteran Status on Driver License	6
In-State Tuition	5	Veterans Homes	2
Job Preference.....	6	Veterans License Plates	5
Leave, Military.....	8	Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)	15
Legal Clinic	15	Veterans Upward Bound	5
		William E. Christoffersen Salt Lake Veterans Home.....	2

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (UDVMA)

Mission

The Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs serves Veterans and their families by opening doors to benefits, education, and jobs, while advocating for Utah's military bases and service members.

Vision

Utah will be the best place in the nation to perform military missions and be recognized as a premier location for Veterans, Military, Reservists, and their families to live and succeed.

Serving Utah's 170,000 Veterans

The UDVMA offers a variety of services to assist Veterans in obtaining the benefits they may be eligible for because of their military service. We also provide counseling and assistance to Veterans and their dependents with the VA claims process, establishing Veterans' rights to state and federal benefits, and providing other information and advisory services.

This publication is produced by the:

State of Utah

Department of Veterans and Military Affairs

550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105

Salt Lake City, Utah 84113

Phone: (801) 326-2372

Toll Free: (800) 894-9497

Fax: (801) 326-2369

E-mail: veterans@utah.gov

Website: <http://veterans.utah.gov>

Gary R. Harter, Executive Director

OUR COMMISSIONS

Utah State Veterans Homes

Quality nursing and health care services are provided for Utah Veterans with U.S. military service during peacetime or wartime. While wartime service is not a requirement for admission to the homes, wartime Veterans with one day or more of wartime service, as recognized by state and federal laws, do have a priority. A Veteran's spouse or surviving spouse may also be eligible for admission to the Utah State Veterans Homes provided that the marriage to the Veteran occurred no less than one year before the application. There are currently four (4) Veterans Homes in Utah for eligible Veterans, spouses, and Gold Star parents.

The following are the Veterans Homes:

William E. Christoffersen Salt Lake Veterans Home

700 Foothill Drive

Salt Lake City, UT 84113-1104

Phone: (801) 584-1900

(81 beds)

George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home

1102 North 1200 West

Ogden, UT 84404

Phone: (801) 334-4300

(120 beds)

Central Utah Veterans Home — Payson

1551 North Main Street

Payson, UT 84651

Phone: (801) 465-5400

(108 beds)

Southern Utah Veterans Home — Ivins

160 North 200 East

Ivins, UT 84738

Phone: (435) 634-5220

(108 beds)

Military Affairs Component

The new Military Affairs function has demonstrated positive synergies as Veteran issues and military issues are often mutually supportive if they can be identified and managed collaboratively, which we can now do with both responsibilities in one office.

The Military Affairs director coordinates and leads and the UDVMA efforts in regard to the state's military installations, units, leaders, organizations, and defense businesses.

Utah State Veterans Memorial Park

17111 South Camp Williams Road
Bluffdale, Utah 84065
Phone: (801) 254-9036

The Utah State Veterans Memorial Park and Cemetery generally follows the eligibility requirements of the VA National Cemetery System for interment. This includes any U.S. Armed Forces active personnel or Veterans who were discharged under condition other than dishonorable.

Reservist and National Guard retired personnel with 20 years of service and surviving spouses and dependent children are also eligible for burial. (UT Code 71-7-3)

State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (SAA)

700 Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84113
Phone: (801) 584-1973

Education and / or vocational training for our Veterans are a key element in helping them achieve success after their military service. The State Approving Agency (in conjunction with the VA) performs all duties necessary for the inspection, approval, supervision, and compliance of those programs offered by qualified educational institutions or training establishments in order for Veterans to use their GI Bill and other VA education benefits.

Veteran Services Coordination and Resources

Outreach Programs

The UDVMA outreach program has a two-fold approach — to local communities and special events.

For local communities, the UDVMA has VSOs (Veteran Service Officers) and other Outreach Representatives traveling across the state to assist Veterans and their families with filing VA claims.

The UDVMA special events outreach program consists mainly of sponsoring a variety of Benefit and Job Fairs, Workshops, and other events to make known the essential services and resources available to assist Veterans.

Utah Veterans Information System

In 2012 the UDVMA launched the Veterans Information System (VIS). This was designed in cooperation with the Utah Department of Technology Services (DTS) to create a tool that would improve the ability to provide information and services to Utah Veterans.

To be included in the VIS, which enhances our ability to serve you, complete the online application at: <http://veterans.utah.gov/>

Discharge Data

The UDVMA maintains a storage database of discharge documents, including many form DD-214s and Notice of Separation forms, for Veterans whose state home of record was Utah.

The majority of these documents are from service dates after 1980. (For Utah National Guard separation documents — NGB 22 Forms — see page 9.)

STATE BENEFITS AND SERVICES

DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

A Utah permanent place-of-residence property tax abatement that uses the VA's percentage-rating for a service-connected disability is available for disabled Veterans or for their un-remarried widows or minor orphans. The Veteran's disability rating must be at least 10% in order to qualify for this abatement.

The percentage cap is subject to change, but here is the formula:

- The maximum property tax abatement is \$253,264 (rated at 100% service-connected disability),
- Multiply your percentage of disability by 253,024
- Example: a 10% disability X 253,264 = \$25,326.40 tax abatement
- This amount is then subtracted from the taxable value of the property and taxes are paid on the remaining amount.

To apply for this Property Tax Abatement, request a Summary of Benefits Letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Submit the letter and complete a Property Tax Abatement application at the applicable county treasurer, tax assessor, or clerk/recorder located in the county government building of the county in which the property is located on or before 1 September. All property must be on record as of 1 January of the year you file. However, a recent change allows an exemption to that rule to qualified widows and orphans.

Disabled Veterans only have to file for the abatement one time; after which it will automatically renew each year. (Utah Code 59-2-1104 & 1105)

ARMED FORCES PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

The state provides a property tax exemption for members of active or reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces who perform qualifying active-duty military service.

For the purposes of this tax exemption, "Qualifying Active Duty Service" is defined as a minimum of 200 days in a calendar year, regardless of whether they were performed consecutively, or 200 consecutive days of active service that may cross over into a second calendar year but has not been applied toward the count for the previous year's taxes.

The amount of the tax exemption is equal to the total taxable value of the claimant's real property. This tax exemption can be claimed up to a year following the year the service was completed.

The exemption may not be claimed by the military person's spouse, and the military person may not claim the tax exemption for property owned exclusively by the military person's spouse. (Utah Code 59-2-1104 & 1105)

PURPLE HEART TUITION WAIVER

Utah public institutions of higher learning are required to waive the tuition of a Utah resident admitted to an undergraduate or graduate program leading to a degree, or a vocational training that leads to a certificate or diploma, if the student is a recipient of a Purple Heart. (Utah Code 53B-8-101)

IN-STATE TUITION RATES

Armed Forces personnel pay in-state tuition rates simply by providing proof from their commander that they are indeed assigned to an institution in Utah. (Utah Code 53B-8-102 (8) (d) (i-iii))

VETERANS TUITION GAP PROGRAM

Effective 1 July 2014 the Veterans Tuition Gap Program came into effect. This “funding” gap enables qualifying military Veterans to receive tuition assistance for the last school year at State institutions of higher education. It is for tuition only and does not include housing, books, etc. The qualifications to receive this benefit are as follows:

- Must be a Utah resident
- Admitted to a State school
- No previous degrees earned
- Eligible for Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill, but exhausted
- The money is distributed one quarter or semester at a time
- Make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Three or less semesters left to complete graduation

(Utah Code 53B-13b-104)

SCOTT B. LUNDELL TUITION WAIVER FOR SURVIVING DEPENDENTS

This benefit waives the undergraduate tuition at state institutions of higher education for the surviving dependents of a Utah resident military member killed in the line of duty after 9/11/2001. This waiver does not apply to fees, books, or housing expenses. The Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs is the administering agency for this benefit. For more info contact our office at (801) 326-2372. (Utah Code 53B-8-107)

HONORARY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

Veterans from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam who left high school for military service during those conflicts may be eligible to receive Honorary High School Diplomas from the particular school that they left. Contact the local school district for information on how to receive the diploma. (Utah Code 53A-3-426)

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is funded by the Department of Education and sponsored by Weber State University. VUB provides an invaluable service by assisting Veterans in obtaining admission to the States post-secondary schools. Veterans can receive free instruction and free tutorial assistance in Mathematics, English, and basic computer applications. These services are provided to Veterans in the counties of Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber. For more information, contact (801) 626-7173.

PURPLE HEART FEE EXEMPTION

A recipient of the Purple Heart with a Purple Heart license plate, is exempt from paying the fees related to motor vehicle license and registration. This does not exempt one from the property taxes or age-based fees which are still applicable. (Utah Code 41-1a-1211)

VETERANS LICENSE PLATES

For an initial \$25.00 contribution to the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, plus a \$10.00 plate transfer fee and the normal vehicle registration and property tax fees, Utah Veterans license plates may be purchased from any DMV facility. There will also be a yearly \$10.00 renewal fee. The proceeds from these sales and/or renewals assist in funding state Veterans programs. The Utah Veterans license plates display colored decal emblems of the U.S. military

branch in which served (as well as the American Legion), and are inscribed with “*UTAH HONORS VETERANS.*”

Utah special group license plates for Purple Heart recipients, Pearl Harbor survivors or, former POWs are exempt from application and renewal fees. Regular registration fees and property taxes, however, must still be paid. The proper evidence to present for a special group plate includes a Military Order of the Purple Heart or Pearl Harbor Survivors Association membership card, or DD-214/Military Discharge certificate.

A “Disabled Veteran” license plate is available for all Veterans having a service-connected disability. This plate has a one-time \$15.00 fee and no additional renewal fees. Military I.D. card or other documentation, and a VA Summary of Benefits letter (SBL), must be presented to prove eligibility for this plate. **Note:** This Plate does not qualify for disabled parking privileges. (Utah Code 41-1a-418 thru 422)

DISABLED LICENSE PLATES / WINDSHIELD PLACARDS

Disabled license plates having the blue and white international symbol of accessibility decal may be obtained by submission of Application Form TC 842, accompanied by a certification from a duly licensed physician stating: (1) the disability limits or impairs one’s ability to walk as defined in the 1991 policy guide *Federal Uniform System for Handicapped Parking*, and (2) the time period the physician determines that the disability will continue.

Disabled Veterans applying for the Utah disability license plates should note that the various *Veteran disability letters from the VA Regional Office are not acceptable evidence* to Motor Vehicle offices. However, *licensed physician certifications by VA doctors are acceptable evidence*, provided they provide the same information as indicated above.

Normal fees for plate transfer, registration, and property taxes still must be paid upon initial application and renewal of disability license plates.

One additional disability windshield placard may be issued, upon request, to a disabled person applying for or already possessing a disability special group license plate. For more information, call the Division of Motor Vehicles toll-free at (800) DMV-UTAH [368-8824] (Utah Code 41-1a-420)

DRIVER LICENSE PRIVILEGES

Driver licenses possessed by persons on U.S. military active duty shall be valid for 90 days after active duty discharge unless the driver’s license is suspended or revoked for cause by a police department or other judicial entity. (Utah Code 53-3-205)

VETERAN STATUS ON UTAH DRIVER LICENSE AND UTAH ID CARDS

Veterans can now have “VETERAN” printed on their state issued driver licenses or state ID cards. In order to have this accomplished, go to any state Driver License or ID office and indicate on the application for these cards that you are a Veteran. You must have served on active duty and have an Honorable or General Discharge. Veterans must provide a DD-214 or a Report of Separation to have their status verified. All renewal fees are still applicable. (Utah Code 53-3-804)

VETERANS JOB PREFERENCE

Eligible Veterans, spouses, or un-remarried widows/widowers are granted either 5 or 10 additional points for employment preference. These points are added to the results of any written and/or oral exam or other related qualifying technique or examinations by any Utah government entity (*i.e.*, state, county, local municipality, etc.). The Department of Labor protects the Veteran’s right to Veterans Job Preference. (Utah Code 71-10-2)

VETERANS HIRING PRIORITY

Any officers, agents or representatives of the state, or any contractors performing work for the Utah state government, who willfully fail to give preference to a preference eligible Veteran shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (Utah Code 71-10-3)

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES

The Disabled Veterans Outreach Program representatives (DVOPs), along with the Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) are located statewide in various employment centers of the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS).

They provide intensive employment-related services and aid for targeted Veterans, such as referrals to employment opportunities, help with resume writing and referral letters, ensuring that Veterans hiring preference is adhered to, employment counseling, etc. Following is a list of DWS Employment Center sites with Veteran Representatives' numbers:

Clearfield

1290 East 1450 South
Clearfield, UT 84015
(801) 776-7862 | (801) 776-7810

Lehi

557 West State Street
Lehi, UT 84043
(801) 616-0547

Logan

180 North 100 West
Logan, UT 84321
(435) 792-0338

Metro

720 South 200 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 536-7051

Midvale

7292 South State Street
Midvale, UT 84047
(801) 567-3976

Moab, Price, and Blanding

457 Kane Creek Drive
Moab, UT 84532
(435) 719-2621

Ogden

480 27th Street
Ogden, UT 84401
(801) 626-0372 / (801) 626-0338

Provo

1550 Freedom Boulevard
Provo, UT 84604
(801) 492-4522

Richfield

115 East 100 South
Richfield, UT 84701
(435) 893-0009

South County / Taylorsville

5735 South Redwood Road
Taylorsville, UT 84123
(801) 269-4837

Spanish Fork

1185 North Chapel Drive
Spanish Fork, UT 84660
(801) 367-8432

St. George / Cedar City

162 North 400 East, Building B
St. George, UT 84770
(435) 986-3575

Tooele

305 North Main Street, Suite 100
Tooele, UT 84074
(801) 833-7384

Vernal

1050 West Market Drive
Vernal, UT 84078
(435) 781-4124

ACCELERATED CREDENTIALING TO EMPLOYMENT (ACE) PROGRAM

The ACE Program assists Utah Veterans, and actively-drilling members of the Guard and Reserve, and their respective spouses, in overcoming most barriers to employment or even better employment by assisting them in attaining certificates and licenses using their military training and/or experience, or by assisting them with short-term training.

ACE Specialists by County

Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Morgan, Rich, and Weber

801-452-5306

Davis (South), Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele

801-386-1220

Carbon, Emery, Daggett, Duchesne, Grand, Juab, Millard, Sanpete, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch

801-834-5475

Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Sevier, Washington, and Wayne

801-726-4912

MILITARY LEAVE

Utah state, county, city or other municipal government employees, who are members of the organized Reserve / National Guard, are allowed full pay* for 15 days of military leave per year for annual military encampments. This Military leave is in addition to and distinguished from the (annual) accrued vacation leave with pay. (Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act. (Utah Code 39-3-2)

* Some exceptions apply; see your Human Resources Representatives for details.

BUS / TRAX REDUCED FARE CARDS

Utah Transit Authority (UTA) offers Reduced Fare Cards for riding UTA busses and TRAX light-rail systems to Veterans meeting one of the following criteria by having:

- A disability that causes difficulty getting on or off a system
- A difficulty standing in a moving system
- A difficulty reading system schedules and understanding signs
- A difficulty in hearing announcements by system operators

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Reduced Fare, you must provide one of the following documents along with a completed application form:

- Proof of Age (65 or older) and Photo ID (may be same item) *e.g.*, a state driver's license, pictured VA Card, or passport.
- Medicare Card and Photo ID
- Healthcare Provider Statement Form from one of the following approved providers:

Physician

Optometrist

Audiologist

Psychologist

Psychiatrist

Physician's Assistant (PA)

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)

Nurse Practitioner (NP)

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

The form must have been personally signed and dated by the healthcare provider within the last 45 days. (**Note:** no photocopies or electronic submissions will be accepted.)

Take the application form and all proof of qualification to one of the following offices:

- ♦ Lost & Found (511 West 200 South, Salt Lake City)
- ♦ Meadowbrook (3600 South 700 West, Salt Lake City)
- ♦ Timpanogos Transit Center (1145 South 750 East, Orem)
- ♦ Ogden Transit Center (2393 Wall Ave, Ogden)

Upon approval of your eligibility, the \$2.00 card fee is due. FAREPAY cards are \$2.00 plus a \$5.00 load.

The Reduced Fare Card will entitle you to use UTA's fixed route bus, light rail (TRAX) street car, and the commuter rail (FrontRunner) services at a reduced rate.

(FrontRunner connects Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber counties, and has stations in Salt Lake City, Woods Cross, Farmington, Clearfield, Roy, Layton, and Ogden. Each station has connections to UTA's bus system and park and ride lots.)

FISHING LICENSE PRIVILEGE

The State of Utah offers a discounted fishing license for Disabled Utah Veterans with a minimum service connected disability rating of 20%. To file, a Veteran must submit a disability rating letter from the VA Showing the disability rating to any Utah Division of Wildlife Office. Call: (801) 538-4700 for more information. (Utah Code 23-19-38.3)

FREE USE OF ARMORIES

Federally-chartered Veterans organizations shall have the right to the free use of armories owned or leased by the State of Utah, provided that their use of the armories does not interfere with their use by the National Guard or organized militia of the state. (Utah Code 71-3-1)

HOMELESS VETERANS FELLOWSHIP

The Homeless Veterans Fellowship provides transitional housing for up to 18 months for Veterans. They also provide emergency food bags and personal hygiene items, and coffee and donuts are provided during open hours.

The Fellowship address is:

Homeless Veterans Fellowship
541 23rd Street
Ogden, UT 84401
Phone: (801) 392-7662

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD RECORDS OF SEPARATION

The Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper maintains copies of National Guard Bureau record of separation certificates (NGB 22 Forms). Certified copies of DD-214 documents are provided free of charge to Guard personnel who have been deployed. Have a photo ID when picking up the requested document.

Contact:

Utah National Guard Headquarters
12953 Minuteman Drive
Draper, UT 84020
801-432-4400

VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES PARK PASS

Veterans that are 50% service connected disabled will need to provide a current summary of benefits letter issued by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs in order to obtain the Honor Pass at select locations across Utah. Go here for locations near you:

<http://stateparks.utah.gov/resources/contact-our-regional-offices/>

Or call 801.538.7720

FEDERAL / NATIONAL BENEFITS

VETERANS REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Veterans and serving members of the Utah National Guard and Reserve units may be eligible for reemployment with their civilian employers if they meet requirements under the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). USERRA also offers protection against employment discrimination due to military service.

U.S. Department of Labor

The Department of Labor offers assistance to Veterans through their Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS). This program serves both Veterans and separating service members by preparing them for meaningful careers, providing apt employment resources and expertise, and helps in protecting their employment rights. The address for the U.S. Department of Labor in Utah is:

U.S. Department of Labor
Veterans Employment and Training Service
140 East 300 South, Suite 209
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2333
Phone: (801) 524-5703
(US Code Title 38, Chap. 43)

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS

This is a lifetime entrance pass to national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges that charge an entrance fee. The Passport admits the holder and accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. Where entry is not by private vehicle, the passport admits the pass holder, spouse, and children. The Pass *may* also provide a 50% discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as parking, camping, swimming, and boat

launching. It does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires.

A Pass must be obtained in person at any federal area where an entrance fee is charged or at one of the agencies administering the Pass. It is available to citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who are determined, medically, to be either blind or permanently disabled. Veterans may obtain a passport by showing proof of a medically determined permanent disability or eligibility for the reception of benefits under federal law. A letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs stating the Veteran's disability rating will suffice.

Agencies administering the Pass are Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, and the Forest Service.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

The VA offers a multitude of benefits and services to the nation's Veteran population. The following is only a selective description of some of the more commonly applied-for benefits.

To learn more about these benefits, visit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at www.va.gov.

Disability Compensation

Veterans with a host of disabilities, medical conditions, or injuries incurred or aggravated during active military service — regardless of when or where they served — may be eligible to receive monthly benefits that are non-taxable.

Requirements

To support a claim for service connection, the evidence must show:

- You have an existing physical or mental disability
- You had an injury or disease or event in service that either caused or aggravated an injury or disease
- That a link exists between your current disability and the event, injury, or disease that occurred in military service

Veterans are advised to work with a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) to assist you with your claim.

Submit the following relevant items with your claim:

- Discharge or separation papers (the DD-214 or equivalent)
- Private medical provider records and hospital reports

Online Application Process

The fastest and most efficient way to obtain a VA decision on a compensation claim is to submit all the supporting documents and evidence together in a Fully Developed Claim (FDC) online at www.eBenefits.va.gov or by mail.

Be sure to:

- Collect, scan, and upload all supporting records
- Provide sound evidence for each claimed disability
- Track the status of your claim

If you want to file an FDC but do not have all your necessary evidence, do the following:

- Start an FDC at eBenefits.va.gov
- Save your incomplete application
- Gather all your documentation and then complete your claim up *to one year later*

N.B.: This will preserve your effective date if the claim is submitted within one year.

Education and Training

VA's education and training benefits are provided through these key programs:

- Post-9/11 GI Bill
Yellow Ribbon Program to help pay tuition costs for private or out-of-state schools, or graduate school
- Montgomery GI Bill
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance

VA education benefits may be used toward traditional degrees, non-college degrees, on-the-job training, apprenticeships and more.

VA also provides assistance to help Veterans transition from military service to civilian employment. Service-disabled Veterans may be eligible for some one-on-one support, counseling, and training to boost skills and build careers.

Requirements

- Copies of your discharge or separation papers (DD-214 or equivalent)
- Documentation of an enlistment incentive or College Fund, sometimes referred to as a "kicker" (this is an add on to the GI Bill benefit)

To qualify for a monthly housing allowance, you must attend school more than half time (*e.g.*, seven out of 12 credit hours per term) and not currently be on active duty in the service

Application Process

The application process varies for different types of applicants. So, before you apply, determine the benefit that is right for you. You have up to 15 years after release from active duty to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill; other programs have different time limits.

If you are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill, or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program, you must choose which benefit you wish to receive. This decision is irrevocable.

It takes about 30 minutes to apply for the benefit online. Consider the following:

- Plan ahead and apply early; VA education benefits can take a few weeks to process.
- Depending upon where you live, your application will be routed to one of four Regional Processing Offices (RPOs) in Atlanta, GA; Buffalo, NY; Muskogee, OK; and St. Louis, MO.

Health Care

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is America's largest integrated health care system, with more than 1,700 sites of care, and it is consistently ranked among the nation's top health care providers.

Many Veterans may be eligible for VA health care. Enrollment in VA health care satisfies your Affordable Care Act health coverage requirement — no add-on insurance plan is needed. VA encourages you to explore your health care benefits.

Requirements

Veterans must have served active military service and been separated under any conditions other than dishonorable.

Most Veterans who enlisted after 7 September 1980, or those who entered active duty after 16 October 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty. This includes current and former members of the Reserve or National Guard called to active duty by a federal order.

Benefits Offered

- All enrolled Veterans have access to VA's comprehensive medical benefits package including preventive and primary care, specialty care, home health care, mental health care, geriatrics and extended care, prescriptions, durable medical equipment and prosthetics, and more.
- Most Veterans qualify for cost-free health care services, although some are required to pay modest copays for health care or prescriptions.
- Women Veterans can receive primary care, prenatal care, maternity care, breast and cervical cancer screenings, along with other gender-specific services.
- Combat Veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after 28 January 2003 are eligible to enroll in the VA healthcare system for five years from the date of their discharge or release, regardless of their disability claim status.

Those who enroll under this authority will continue to be enrolled even after their enhanced eligibility period ends, although their priority group may change. Many combat Veterans applying after their five-year special enrollment period ends are eligible for enrollment.

Documents Needed to Enroll

- Discharge papers such as DD-214
- Additional health insurance information, including coverage through a spouse or domestic partner
- Wage and financial information, including previous calendar-year gross income for the Veteran, his or her spouse, and any dependent children

Application Process

Applying is easy: Submit an application form (10-10EZ) and VA will send you written notification of your enrollment status.

Note: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was designed to expand the access to health coverage, control health care costs, improve health care quality, and coordinate health care.

Other VA Benefits

Employment Services

Life Insurance

Home Loans

Memorial

Pension

Spouse, dependents, and survivors

Again, to learn more about these benefits, visit The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website: www.va.gov.

VA SALT LAKE CITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The VA Salt Lake City Health Care System consists of several components that provide quality healthcare to Veterans throughout its assigned region. These components are:

- The VA Medical Center
- Community Based Outpatient Clinics (10)
- Vet Centers (3)

VA Hospital

The George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center is a mid-sized, affiliated, tertiary care facility with 121 authorized beds. It is also a teaching facility, and provides the full range of patient care services, with state-of-the-art technology and education and research. Comprehensive health care is provided through primary care, tertiary care, and long-term medical care in the areas of surgery, psychiatry, neurology, oncology, dentistry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and geriatrics.

Address:

George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center

500 Foothill Drive

Salt Lake City, UT 84113

Phone: (801) 582-1565 (800) 613-4012

VA Salt Lake City Health Care System offers a variety of health services to meet the needs of our nation's Veterans. Some services are listed below, but more can be found on the VA website:

www.saltlakecity.va.gov.

Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

590 Foothill Dr. (Bldg. 90)

801-582-1565 Ext. 4044

Chaplain and Religious Services

500 Foothill Drive (Bldg. 1)

801-582-1565 Ext. 1588

Dental

590 Foothill Drive (Bldg. 90)

801-584-1206 Ext. 1206

800-613-4012 Ext. 1206

Medical Foster Home Program

500 Foothill Drive (Bldg. 16)

801-582-1565 Ext. 2183

Mental Health

500 Foothill Drive (Bldg. 16)

801-582-1565 Ext. 1255

Patient Travel Benefits

500 Foothill Drive
801-582-1565 Ext. 1420

Pharmacy

500 Foothill Drive (Bldg. 14)
801-584-2525
800-579-0540

Telehealth

500 Foothill Drive
801-582-1565 Ext. 4128
800-613-4012 Ext. 4128

Travel Benefits

Bldg. 1, Ground Floor
801-582-1565 Ext. 1420
801-582-1565 Ext. 2474

**Community Based Outpatient Clinics
(CBOCs)**

There are 10 community based outpatient clinics in the VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System. The clinics in the VA system provide primary care services to Veterans in outlying communities and in some rural areas where Veteran populations are concentrated.

Ogden

982 Chambers Street
South Ogden, UT 84403
Phone: (801) 479-4105

Orem

1443 West 800 North, Suite 302
Orem, UT 84057
Phone: (801) 235-0953

Price

189 South 600 West, Suite B
Price, UT 84501
Phone: (435) 613-0342

Roosevelt

245 West 200 North
Roosevelt, UT 84066
Phone: (435) 725-1050

St. George

230 North 1680 East, Bldg. N
St. George, UT 84770
Phone: (435) 634-7608

West Valley City

2750 South 5600 West
West Valley City, UT 84120
Phone: (801) 417-5734

Vet Centers

The goal of the Vet Centers is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to help eligible Veterans make a satisfying readjustment to civilian life. Family members are also eligible for the services.

Vet Centers furnish bereavement counseling to surviving parents, spouses, children, and siblings of service members who die of any cause while serving on active duty, to include federally activated Reserve units and National Guard personnel.

Salt Lake Vet Center

22 West Fireclay Ave.
Murray, UT 84107
Phone: (801) 266-1499 / (877) 927-8387
Fax: (801) 266-2577

Provo Vet Center

1807 North 1120 West
Provo, UT 84604
Phone: (801) 377-1117 / (877) 927-8387
Fax: (801) 377-0227

St. George Vet Center

1664 S Dixie Dr., Suite C-102
St. George, UT 84770-4494
Phone: (435) 673-4494
Toll-Free: (877) 927-8387

Valor House

Located on the VA campus in Salt Lake City, Valor House provides transitional housing for up to two years for homeless Veterans. There are a total of 60 beds available. For more information regarding this program, please contact Rich Landward at (801) 582-1565 ext. 2703 or (800) 613-4012 ext. 2703.

VA REGIONAL (BENEFITS) OFFICE

The Veterans Administration Regional Office (VARO) is responsible for the administration of Veterans benefits for the entire state of Utah, as well as Montana and Alaska through remote management of the Anchorage and Fort Harrison Offices. These benefits include compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and employment.

The VARO Address:

550 Foothill Drive, Suite 200
PO Box 581900
Salt Lake City, UT 84158
Phone: (800) 827-1000
Fax: (844) 822-5246 (Claim Related Matter)

UTAH VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC

What: Talk to an attorney at no cost
When: On the second Thursday of each month from 1730 to 1930 hrs.
Where: Salt Lake City VA Campus, Building 8 Multi-purpose Center

Sponsored By

Young Lawyers Division, Utah State Bar

<http://younglawyers.utahbar.org>

Lawyers for Veterans

www.representveterans.com

**NATIONAL VETERANS
SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

In Utah there are many Veterans Service Organizations that offer assistance with the claims processing system for benefits. They do not charge for their services. The following are the five most recognizable, all located at:

550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, UT 84113

American Legion

(801) 326-2380

Disabled American Veterans

(801) 326-2375

Military Order of the Purple Heart

(801) 326-2471

**Utah Department of Veterans
and Military Affairs**

(801) 326-2372

Veterans of Foreign Wars

(801) 326-2385

**EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE
GUARD AND RESERVE (ESGR)**

ESGR is a Department of Defense unit that promotes employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating for relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflicts between employers and service members. ESGR educates the service members and their civilian employers in regard to their rights and responsibilities governed by USERRA (the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act).

12953 South Minuteman Drive
Draper, UT 84020
Phone: (801) 432-4492 / (801) 432-4536
Website: www.ut.ngb.army.mil/esgr/

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES, SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND GENERAL INFORMATION

LOST YOUR DD-214?

Have you lost or need to replace a service record? Probably the most common enquiry we get at the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs is: “how can I get a copy of my DD-214?” If you’re lucky, we will have it in our database (see page 3), if not, then you need to go to work.

Complete service records are available to the Veteran, or, if deceased, to his / her next of kin (parents, spouse, or children). Limited information (such as service dates, awards, and training) is available to almost anyone, but no information which would invade an individual’s privacy — *e.g.*, medical records, Social Security Number, or present address.

Military records are now in the hands of the National Archives, and not the Department of Defense. You can request your records in one of three ways:

1. Write a letter providing all the information about yourself that you can to the address given below (this is the slowest way).

National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138

2. Fill out form SF-180 and mail it to the address stated on the form.
3. Make an online request using **eVetRecs** at the website www.archives.gov.


The online **eVetRecs** system takes you through several screens that, at the end, create an order form to request documents, etc., from your or your relative’s military personnel records.

Print out the form, sign it, and mail or FAX it to the address provided on the form. If you are the next of kin of a deceased Veteran, you must provide proof of death of the Veteran; *e.g.*, death certificate, letter from the funeral home, or a published obituary.

The National Personnel Records Center responds to more than 1.4 million requests annually for copies of military records, so you won’t get them overnight. Typically, provide a timely and efficient response on average in 4–6 weeks.

Records are accessioned into the National Archives, and become “archival,” *62 years after the service member’s separation from the military*. This means that they are open to the public. (Thus, the current year, 2015, minus 62 years is 1953.)

***SAFEGUARD YOUR MILITARY RECORDS,
ESPECIALLY YOUR DD-214!***

 Yes, Google. Those leaving the military today face one of the toughest job markets in recent history. The unemployment rate is slowly falling, but millions of Americans are out of work. And, transitioning from military service to the civilian workforce has been historically tricky.

With that in mind, the Internet giant has launched a website it has dubbed VetNet (www.vetnethq.com). VetNet is “a career service for those who’ve served.”

Veterans and their family members, with a simple click of a button, can get connected to other Veterans and access a database of 1 million + Veteran-preferred jobs.

UTAH'S VETERAN HISTORY PROJECT (UVHP)

The Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs and the Utah Division of State History have been working on a joint project and are asking Veterans and their families and friends to record as many specific memories that they can of experiences or events that occurred during their military service.

Service members and civilians from the World War II era were so impacted by the end of the war that when the announcement was made, tears were shed and people celebrated in the streets. This dramatic national experience created iconic images that became a part of our heritage, and the accomplishments of the "Greatest Generation" determined the sociopolitical direction of the entire world.

The initial launch of the UVHP is making it a priority for World War II Veterans to preserve their memories of the end of the War. We hope that these Veterans and their families and friends will assist us in recording those recollections by going to the UDVMA website (<http://veterans.utah.gov/>) and recording their reminiscences. Over the next few years, this project will ask Veterans from a variety of different eras, *e.g.*, Korea, Vietnam, etc., to share specific memories of their military service focused also on significant historical events. It is our hope and intention that all those collected stories will explain to future generations about the legacy that was left for them by these great men and women.

GET THEIR STORIES — NOW

The Library of Congress Program

Approximately every two minutes a memory of World War II — with all the sights, sounds, triumphs, and horrors of that monumental conflict — vanishes forever. Why? Well, the men and women of that generation are yielding to that which we all will some day; the inalterable process of aging and death. The men and women who fought and won the great conflict are now in their late 80s and mid 90s. They are dying ever so fast; rates vary, but somewhere between 1,400 and 2,000 pass away each day.

Honoring the sacrifices of the 20th-century Veterans before they pass from the scene is at the forefront of everything The National WWII Museum does — from exhibits to oral histories to its \$300 million expansion. It is a lasting tribute to the Greatest Generation.

Obviously, time is of the essence. They want to finish and dedicate the expansion while there are still members of the Greatest Generation to thank for their sacrifice and service to the nation and to show the world what they mean to the "principle of freedom."

Record and document their stories — those of family and friends who fought that war. Then, provide copies to the National WWII Museum. Here's how:

Visit this website; www.loc.gov/vets for some helpful information to get you started.

Remember, 16,000,000+ individuals were members of the United States armed forces during World War II. There were 291,000+ battle deaths, and 670,000+ non-mortally wounded. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that only about 1.1 million American Veterans of World War II are still living.

LINKS TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT VETERANS AND MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

(CC) = Congressionally Chartered)

American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc. (CC)

<http://www.axpow.org/>

American GI Forum of the United States (CC)

<http://www.agif-nvop.org/>

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

<http://www.goldstarmoms.com/>

American Legion (CC)

<http://www.legion.org/>

American Military Society

<http://www.amsmilitary.org/>

American Veterans Alliance, Inc.

<http://wesupportvets.org/>

AMVETS (CC)

<http://www.amvets.org/>

Association of the U.S. Army

<http://www.ausa.org/>

Association of the United States Navy

<http://www.ausn.org/>

Blinded Veterans Association (CC)

<http://www.bva.org/>

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

<http://www.bluestarmothers.org/>

Cold War Veterans Association

<http://www.coldwarveterans.com/>

Congressional Medal of Honor Society

<http://www.cmohs.org/>

Disabled American Veterans (CC)

<http://www.dav.org/>

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. (CC)

<http://www.goldstarwives.org/>

Healing Heroes Network

<http://www.healingheroes.org/>

Help Hospitalized Veterans

<http://hhv.org/>

Hope for the Warriors

<http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org/>

Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America

<http://iava.org/>

Korea Veterans of America

<http://www.koreaveterans.org/>

Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

<http://www.kwva.org/>

Marine Corps League (CC)

<http://www.mcleague.org/>

Military Officers Association of America
(MOAA) (CC)

<http://www.moaa.org/>

Military Order of Foreign Wars

<http://mofwus.org/>

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the
United States

<http://www.suvcw.org/mollus/mollus.htm>

Military Order of the Purple Heart of the
U.S.A., Inc. (MOPH) (CC)

<http://www.purpleheart.org/>

19 BENEFITS • INFORMATION • SERVICES • RESOURCES

National Association of American Veterans,
Inc.

<http://www.naavets.org/>

National Military Family Association

<http://www.militaryfamily.org/>

National Veterans Foundation

<http://nvf.org/>

National Veterans Legal Services Program
(CC)

<http://www.nvlsp.org/>

National Veterans Organization of America,
(NVOA) (CC)

<http://www.nvo.org/>

or

<https://uniteus.com/groups/national-veterans-organization-of-america-nvoa>

National Women Veterans of America

<http://www.wvanational.org/>

Navy League of the United States

<http://navyleague.org/>

Navy Mutual Aid Association (CC)

<https://www.navymutual.org/>

New Battlefront Foundation

<http://www.newbattlefront.org/>

Non Commissioned Officers Association of
the U.S.A (CC)

<http://www.ncoausa.org/>

Operation Sacred Trust

<http://www.411veterans.com/>

Paralyzed Veterans of America (CC)

<http://www.pva.org/>

Pearl Harbor Survivors Association

<http://www.pearlharborsurvivorsonline.org/>

Student Veterans of America

<http://www.studentveterans.org/>

United States Merchant Marine Veterans of
World War II

<http://www.usmm.org/usmmv.html>

United States Navy Veterans Association

<http://navyvets.tripod.com/>

United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

<https://www.ussvi.org/home.asp>

Veterans and Military Families for Progress

<http://www.vmfp.org/>

Veterans Assistance Foundation, Inc.

<http://vafvets.org/>

Veterans for America

<http://www.veteransforamerica.us/>

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
(CC)

<http://www.vfw.org/>

Veterans of Modern Warfare, Inc.

<http://vmwusa.org/>

Vietnam Veterans of America (CC)

<http://www.vva.org/>

Warrior Gate Way Network

<http://www.warriorgateway.org/>

WAVES National

<http://www.womenofthewaves.com/wavesnational/>